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# Georgia Southern University Athletics



Eagles Claim 9-6 Sun Belt-Opening Softball Win Over ULM  
Georgia Southern plates four first-inning runs, holds on to clip the Warhawks  
Softball

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STATESBORO - Georgia Southern softball jumped out to a 6-1 lead over the first two innings and held on for a Sun Belt Conference-opening 9-6 win over visiting ULM on Friday evening at Eagle Field.

The Eagles (12-9, 1-0 SBC) captured their Sun Belt opener for the third time since joining the league in 2015, and will go for a third series-opening win against the Warhawks (9-12, 0-1 SBC) on Saturday when the two teams meet at 2 p.m. The third game of the series will be on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

Georgia Southern took advantage of wildness from ULM starter Amber Coons (4-2), who issued three bases-loaded walks in the first inning in a four-run frame for the Eagles. ULM got a run back in the top of the second on a solo home run from Jessica Williams, but the Eagles answered in the bottom of the second on a two-run blast from [Faith Shirley](#).

Jayden Mount's RBI triple sparked a three-run third inning for the Warhawks, making the score 6-4. But [Shayla Smith](#) had a two-run blast of her own in the bottom of the fourth that made the score 8-4, and Georgia Southern was able to close out the Sun Belt win.

[Kyleigh Richardson](#) (3-0) notched the win in relief for Georgia Southern, hurling four innings of five-hit ball, giving up two runs - one earned - while walking two. Coons took the loss for the Warhawks, giving up four unearned runs, two hits and five walks in 2/3rds of an inning.

[Bailee Wilson](#) went 2-for-4 with two runs scored at the plate for the Eagles, while Smith drove in three. Williams and Kelsey Giddens had three hits apiece to pace the Warhawks.

"Tonight was a really good team win," Georgia Southern Head Softball Coach [Kim Dean](#) said. "ULM is a great competitor, and they kept battling back. But we were able to put numerous runs up in different innings. We had a good pitching outing by [Aaliyah Garcia](#) and [Kyleigh Richardson](#) coming in and helping us shut it down. It's always fun to win the first conference game, but we will get back at it tomorrow."

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